

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replace Drawing pages 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 with Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19 thereon, with the replacement sheets provided herewith.

REMARKS

I. Request for Extension of Time

It is noted that a two-month extension of time is necessary, to provide for timeliness of the present response. A request for a two-month extension is made.

II. Examiner's Rejection to the Drawings; Corrected Drawings

1. The Examiner objected to the drawings for failure to include the reference numeral "50" in Fig. 5, as in page 11, line 16. Fig. 5 has been amended to correct this.

2. Also, with respect to Fig. 5, the arrow and reference numeral 55 have been deleted, as well as the leader line and reference numeral 53a, as these are not used in the specification. The Examiner had observed this.

3. The Examiner objected to Fig. 6 for failure to include the reference numeral "120" as in page 12, line 38. Fig. 6 has been corrected for this.

4. The Examiner objected to Fig. 7 for failure to include the reference numeral "222" as in page 13, line 28. Fig. 7 has been corrected for this.

(a) It is also noted that the numeral "120" was not used in Fig. 7, so it was added.

5. The Examiner objected to Fig. 11 for failure to use the reference numerals "441a" and "441b" as referenced on page 18, line 21. It is noted that formal drawings previously submitted incorrectly use the reference numeral "416" and "4419" where the original informal drawings has used reference numerals 441a and 441b correctly. In Fig. 11, the formal form, has been corrected for this.

(a) It is noted, therefor, that the correction also involved the deletion of "416" and "4419".

6. The Examiner objected to Fig. 19 for failure to include the reference numeral "325a" as appearing on page 15, line 2. Fig. 19 has been corrected for this.

(a) It is noted that it was observed in Fig. 19, that the term “325a” had incorrectly been used, where “325a” was intended, in the formal drawing, and in the original informal drawing, reference numeral “325a” was properly used.

7. It is also noted that in Fig. 11, a second use of the numeral “406” in reference to the arrow, has been corrected to 406a. As discussed below, a companion amendment to the specification has been requested.

8. The Examiner objected for failure to use the reference numeral “855” in Fig. 21, as in page 29, line 17. Upon review, it was considered that Fig. 21 was correct, and the numeral “855” was not intended to be used at that location of text. Thus, as will be apparent, from the requested amendments below, the specification has been corrected for this inappropriate use of the reference numeral “855;” but no change is made to the drawings.

9. It is noted that the photographic figures, Figs. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been amended for clarity. Here, the drawings were not changed, but rather enlarged and lightened to provide for greater clarity.

Attached hereto as Exhibit A, is a set of previously submitted formal drawing pages 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16, having Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 19 thereon, with red ink showing where the changes have been made. As to the photographic drawings, Figs. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16, they are simply circled to show the photograph has been enlarged and lightened. No new matter results from the changes.

III. Amendments to the Specification

1. A request has been made to correct the specification appearing at page 17. Here the number “406” has been corrected to - 406a- .

(a) In the Office Action, the Examiner had observed that the drawings failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because character 406 had been used twice. To manage the issue arrow 406, Fig. 11, has now been corrected to arrow 406a, to manage the ambiguity. The

text has been amended in accord with this correction. It is believed that no new matter is involved.

2. A request has been made to correct the specification on page 29, line 18, to correct the reference numeral "855" to - 825- - as originally intended. It is noted that the Examiner had objected to use of the term 855 in specification, and not the drawing of Fig. 21. Upon review it was noted that numeral "855" in the text was not intended, but rather - 825- - was. No new matter is raised by the correction.

IV. Amendments to the Claims

It is noted that the Examiner that claims 28-43 include allowable subject matter. The Examiner also indicated that there were rejections to claims 44-47, and the Office Action shows that these rejections are based on art.

To expedite prosecution, the rejected claims (44-47) have been cancelled. The Applicant does reserve the right to include such claims, or amended forms of such claims, in future filed continuation or divisional applications, if desired. That is, Applicants do not admit agreement with the Examiner.

V. Comment Regarding Prior Art

The Examiner's attention is again directed to WO 97/40917, a reference cited with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted October 25, 2007, and initialed as considered by the Examiner with the 1449 forms returned along with the September 9, 2008 Office Action. Within the document, the Examiner's attention is specifically directed to page 9, lines 30-31, which reads "in addition, the filter elements may be selectively compressed prior to the sealant material hardening for shaping the elements."

Applicants' Representatives believe that the Examiner agrees with them that this statement, in the overall context of WO 97/40917 application, does not raise a patentability issue with respect to any of the presently pending claims.



VI. Summary


Amendments have been requested to the drawings and specification, to address minor errors in a manner that does not raise new matter issues. The claims have been amended so that only claims 28-43, already indicated as allowable the Examiner, are maintained. Therefore, it is believed that the application is in proper order for allowance, and a notice to this effect is requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if there is any question or concern regarding this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 336-4707

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Randall A. Hillson
Reg. No. 31,838

